

The Reuben Matlack Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop  
Maple Shade, Burlington County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Reuben Matlack Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop  
Maple Shade, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: T. Chakley Matlack and Mary T. Smith

Date of Erection: 1786

Architect:

Builder: Reuben Matlack

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone  
with brick gables

Interior walls - stone  
left in the rough and  
wooden rafters

Roof - pitch, corrugated  
iron

Historical Data:

The Reuben Blacksmith Shop was built in 1786 to replace a wooden structure of earlier date which had been destroyed by fire. The building was on the Old Salem Road not far from the point where the Great Road to Philadelphia swung away from Salem Road.

Here hardware was made for the Moorestown Meeting House. On the wooden panel in the door of the east elevation will be found the names of several old families of the Moorestown district. On the sides and covers of the window box of the same elevation will be seen more names of old families of the district. It is safe to assume they were put there by their possessors in the days when the blacksmith shop was an institution of prominence.

Bibliography:

Information given to F.A. Eckhart  
by Mr. Chakley Matlack grandson of  
the builder.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

## ADDENDUM

In the later half of the seventeenth century William Matlack was granted one hundred acres of land by Thomas Olive between the north and south branches of the Pensauken Creek in Chester Township. This property and the adjoining lands purchased by him has remained in the Matlack family for over two hundred years. The builder of the Blacksmith Shop was Reuben, a grandson of the first William Matlack. He purchased four acres of land from the homestead of his father and erected his blacksmith shop. He carried on the trade of blacksmith and the manufacturing of sickles most of his life together with general farming. His grandson Asa Matlack died in 1899. By his will equal fifth parts of this estate were devised to T. Chakley Matlack and Mary Smith. Their portion by this will contained the section where the blacksmith shop now stands and the acreage of the two-fifth part is held in their joint ownership.

## Bibliography:

Woodward, E.M.)  
Hageman, J. F.) History of Burlington  
and Mercer Counties, New Jersey  
Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1883

Walter C. Peck  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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